

Message Text

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16

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7849

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: SUNY VISIT

STATE FOR CU/CP, EUR/SES

USIA FOR IEE

REFS: MOSCOW 4787

1. SUNY GROUP LEFT MOSCOW FOR LENINGRAD WITH TWO SUBSTANTIAL ACHIEVEMENTS BEHIND THEM: REFTEL AND APRIL 9 USINFO REPORTED MAIN DETAILS OF UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH MHE AND INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES. EXCEPTIONAL SOVIET RESPONSE TO "WIZARD OF OZ" PERFORMANCES OF SUNY CHILDRENS' THEATER MADE VISIT DOUBLE-BARRELED HIT.

2. MHE SAID IN PRIVATE MEETING THAT THIS INITIAL EXCHANGE, TO START IN SEPTEMBER FOR ONE SEMESTER, WILL BE ONLY A START IF IT WORKS OUT. INSTITUTE AND SUNY WILL DISCUSS EXCHANGING METHODOLOGISTS OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN EACH DIRECTION. MHE ALSO RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO SUNY PROPOSAL, AT EMBASSY SUGGESTION, THAT EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS IN ENGLISH-TEACHING METHODOLOGY AND ENGLISH-TEACHING MATERIALS BE EXPLORED. INDICATIONS ARE THAT CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL EXCHANGE MAY BE OPENED IN THIS FIELD. IN ADDITION, THIS INITIAL CONTACT AT HIGHEST LEVEL WILL LEAD, WE BELIEVE, TO OTHER EXCHANGE POSSIBILITIES BETWEEN SUNY COMPLEX AND USSR

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AND TO CONTINUING CONTACTS.

3. THEATER VISIT WAS SMASHING SUCCESS, AS CONVEYED BY VOA AND U.S. PRESS REPORTING. STUDENT PERFORMERS WERE SPIRITED AND OPEN AND EVERYONE HAD FUN: SOVIET AUDIENCES WOULD HARDLY LET THEM LEAVE THE STAGE AT END. IMAGINATIVE SETS DELIGHTED SOVIETS. DURING FAREWELL CALL BY CHANCELLOR BOYER AND THEATER DIRECTOR PARTICIA SNYDER, MINISTER OF CULTURE FURTSEVA INVITED THEM BACK FOR MULTI-CITY TOUR. SUNY GENERAL MANAGER FOR ADMINISTRATION JOHN MATHER SAYS HE CAN RAISE MONEY TO GET THEM HERE, AND EMBASSY STANDS READY TO AID IN ANY WAY RETURN OF GROUP WHICH CREATED SUCH SOVIET CONFIDENCE IN DESIRABILITY OF YOUTH EXCHANGES AND DREW SUCH POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM AUDIENCES.

4. MAIN QUESTION FROM THEATER AND CULTURAL CIRCLES AT AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION ON FINAL DAY WAS, "WHEN WILL THEY COME BACK?" DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MATHER (THEATER MATTERS) AND BENEDICT (EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE).
STOESSEL

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